

**Town of Bethany Beach
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2013**

The Bethany Beach Budget and Finance Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Jerry Dorfman, who presided; Joseph Healy; Jerry Morris; Chuck Peterson; and Philip Rossi.

Excused members: Denise Boswell and Martin Decre.

Also present: Janet Connery, Finance Director; Cliff Gravier, Town Manager; Mayor Tony McClenny; Councilpersons, Jack Gordon and Margaret Young; and interested member of the public (Bruce Frye).

Call to Order

Mr. Dorfman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Healy made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes from January 17, 2013

After one amendment, Mr. Healy made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 17th, 2013 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Morris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Discuss Draft Budget for FY 2014

Ms. Connery reported that there have been minor changes to the proposed budget, since it was discussed at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting in January. She provided the following information on the draft budget:

In the Revenue budget, the transfer tax revenue budget increased from \$450,000 to \$550,000. There was about a twelve percent (12%) increase to trash collection fees since the current fee is not sufficient to cover the cost of operations and the replacement of trash trucks.

In the Operating budget, \$5,000 was added to Administration for large screen televisions in the downstairs and upstairs meetings rooms for viewing presentations. \$10,000 was added to the Bandstand and Entertainment for programs such as Movies on the Beach and beach bonfires.

In the Capital budget, \$70,000 was added to the General Fund Capital budget for construction of a storage building behind the Town Hall, as mentioned in January. \$35,000 was removed from the Sanitation Fund Capital Budget, since the quote for the trash truck is less than the \$225,000 was originally estimated.

The \$40,000 included in this draft for two large Christmas trees is being removed so it will not be in the final proposed budget.

Ms. Connery stated that the proposed budget fully funds operations, maintains adequate reserves and is fiscally responsible. It also maintains the balance of summer costs verse year-round costs in the General Fund. In this budget, summer revenues are increasing by \$138,000 while summer costs are budgeted to increase by \$127,000.

Discuss Adjustments to Current Fees and Tax Rates

Ms. Connery referenced the “Comparison of Residential Trash Rates in February 2013” document that she distributed to the members before the meeting. She explained that schedules of other towns vary, but they generally have trash collection twice per week in the summer and once per week in the off-season. Recycling pickup in most cases is once per week in the summer and every other week in the off-season. The Town’s proposed fee would keep it comparable to other surrounding towns.

The current approximate fees for surrounding towns are:

- Town of South Bethany \$279
- City of Rehoboth Beach \$255 plus a one-time fee of \$35 container fee
- Town of Fenwick Island \$269
- Single home service from \$414
Waste Industries

Ms. Connery noted that most of these towns accepted State grant funds and several are under contracts that will soon be expiring, so they have not been able to increase fees for the past few years.

Ms. Connery addressed that the only other fee increases, as discussed at last month’s meeting, are the Parking Pay Station Transaction fee increase from \$0.25 to \$0.50 and the Ambulance fee increase from \$41 to \$44. The Volunteer Fire Company considers \$34 of this fee to be for ambulance operations and \$10 to be for creating a reserve for ambulance replacement. Both the Trash fee and Ambulance fee are billed in the annual bill that will be sent out in May. In total, residents will see a \$33 increase in this annual bill.

Mayor McClenny expressed that this document on “Comparison of Residential Trash Rates in February 2013” that Ms. Connery created is well presented and he is happy that the information is being presented this way.

Council member, Ms. Young, questioned if the Town is planning on purchasing two (2) storage units. Mr. Gravier replied that they are purchasing a storage shed for the Town Hall and another storage shed for the maintenance building, which will also be used to store the trolleys.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Healy and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

The Town Council and Budget Committee Public hearing scheduled for March 11th, 2013. The next Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled for March 12th, 2013, but it may be cancelled if it is not needed.